

Remarks

This Supplemental Amendment follows the Amendment dated January 20, 2004 and contains amendments to place the entire Application into condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the raw water supply port formed on the cylindrical case connects to a raw water supply pipe, the air discharge port formed on the cylindrical case connects to an air and overflowing water discharge pipe, the filtrate delivery port formed on the first cap connects to a filtrate delivery pipe, and the drain port formed on the second cap connects to a drain pipe. Support may be found in the Specification in various locations, including page 34 at line 24 – page 35, line 8; page 35, lines 9 – 14; page 35, line 25 – page 36, line 8; and page 36, lines 9 – 15. No new matter has been added. Claim 1 has also been amended to correct minor grammatical errors and to specify that the fluid flow holes allow for the flow of air and drain fluid.

The Applicants have also added new Claims 28 – 30. New Claim 28 is an independent claim based fundamentally on Claim 1, but recites that the cylindrical case comprises a main case member and first and second sealing body attaching members provided for the first and second ends of the case member, respectively. This structure is described in the Specification and shown in Fig. 1 of the Drawings, wherein a main case member 1A is shown and wherein first and second sealing body attaching case members 1Aa and 1Ab are illustrated. Accordingly, new Claim 28 contains no new matter.

New Claim 29 depends from Claim 28 and recites that the raw water supply port is formed on the second sealing body attaching member. This is also shown in Fig. 1, wherein raw water supply port 5 is shown in conjunction with second sealing attaching member 1Ab. Similarly, Claim 30 depends from Claim 28 and recites that the air discharge port is formed on

the first sealing body attaching member. This is shown in Fig. 1, wherein air discharge port 6 is associated with first sealing body attaching case member 1Aa. No new matter has been added.

The Applicants respectfully request entry of new Claims 28 – 30 into the Official File and examination on the merits. Prompt allowance of Claims 28 – 30 is respectfully requested in view of the fact that the prior art of record fails to disclose, teach or suggest a cylindrical case comprising a main case member and first and second sealing body attaching members provided for the first and second ends of the case member, respectively.

The Applicants have corrected a minor typographical error in Fig. 1, wherein reference number “31” in the lower righthand corner has been changed to reference number “33.” A copy of Fig. 1 having the proposed change in red is enclosed for the Examiner’s convenience.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1, 6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102, based on JP ‘628, and the rejection of Claims 1 – 5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 over JP ‘507 are no longer applicable in view of the amendments to Claim 1. Neither of JP ‘628 and JP ‘507 disclose, teach or suggest the claimed raw water supply pipe, air and overflowing water discharge pipe, filtrate delivery pipe and drain pipe as recited in the above-mentioned claims. Therefore, neither of JP ‘628 and JP ‘507 can be used as an anticipatory reference. Withdrawal of the §102 rejection based on JP ‘628 and JP ‘507 is respectfully requested.

The Applicants also respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over JP ‘507 in view of Bae, the rejection of Claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over JP ‘507 in view of Oshida and Nomura, the rejection of Claims 13 – 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over JP ‘507 in view of Macheras, and the rejection of Claims 18 – 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over JP ‘628 in view of Selbie are no longer applicable in view of the amendments to Claim 1, from which all of the above-mentioned Claims depend.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 over JP ‘507 is also inapplicable.

In that regard, the Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner’s frank acknowledgement that JP ‘507 alone does not teach the subject matter of Claim 7. The Official Action takes the position that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use check valves in an air supply line to prevent back flow when air pressure goes down. The Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7 is anything but obvious over JP ‘507. Assuming *arguendo* that the position of the Official Action that it would be obvious to utilize a check valve in an air supply line, the Applicants respectfully submit that JP ‘507 would still not render Claim 7 obvious. The reason is quite simple. JP ‘507, as shown in Figs. 1 – 3, shows a device that has four supply/exit ports. Those supply/exit ports are utilized for the in-gress and egress of liquids and air. However, there are four such ports.

This is sharply contrasted to Claim 7 that specifically recites the presence of five ports. Those five ports include a raw water supply port (j), an air discharge port (k), a filtrate delivery port (m), a drain port (n) and an air supply port. Thus, the number of ports in Claim 7 is five, while the total number of ports in JP ‘507 is four.

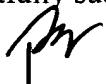
The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to add the check valve mentioned in the Official Action to any of the ports disclosed by JP ‘507, the result would still be a device having four supply/exit ports. As mentioned above, this is not what the Applicants claim. The Applicants’ Claim 7 has five supply/discharge ports.

Moreover, there is nothing in JP ‘507 that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to add an additional port. There simply is no such disclosure and nothing providing teachings or suggestions to make any modifications that would lead to the inclusion of an additional

supply/discharge port. The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that JP '507 is inapplicable to Claim 7. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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